

LATEST NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE DAY IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

V. M. I. NOT STRONG AGAINST MIDDIES

Fought Stubbornly, But Lost by 12 to 0.

NAVY WEAKER THAN ARMY

Showed Improvement Over Last Year, But Is Not Up to West Point Standard.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Oct. 8.—The Virginia Military Institute football team did not develop much strength against the Navy this afternoon, though it fought stubbornly and was defeated by the small score of 12 to 0.

The game was satisfactory from the Navy standpoint, and although not especially brilliant work was done, the foundations of a better team than last season's was indicated, and the Navy had a chance to use most of her players during the game.

All the scoring was done in the second half, the Navy losing two opportunities to score in the first half through fumbles by Wilcox and Farley. In the second half touchdowns were made by Douglass and Decker, and goals were kicked by Wilcox and Needham.

Backs Worked Well.

The work of the local back field was decidedly good, Douglass, a new man, showing up to expectations, and making one end run of twenty yards, the longest of the game. The work of the line was good, and the Virginians made but one first down during the game. They worked the quarterback kick cleverly, however, twice recovering the ball on the play. The work of the Academy ends, Whiting and Boynton, and afterward Welch, who replaced Whiting, was fast, and no long gains were made by the visitors in running back kicks.

The general opinion of the football experts here was that although the team is better than at this time last year, there is little likelihood of bringing it up to the West Point standard for some time to come.

The Line-Up.

Navy. Positions. V. M. I. Farley (Capt.)... L. T. James (Capt.) Woodward... L. G. Steele, Graves, Wilcox, Needham... Q. B. Taliaferro, Douglass... R. B. Dodson, Doherty... R. H. B. Caffrey, Root, Howard... F. B. Conrad, Spencer, Decker. Score—Navy, 12; Virginia Military Institute, 0. Time of halves—15 minutes. Touchdown—Wilcox. Goals—Needham—Douglass, Decker. Referee—Mr. Edwards, of Princeton. Umpire—Mr. Abbott, of Yale. Line men—Mr. Roberts, of Becker, Caffrey, Root, Howard, of F. B. Conrad, Spencer, Decker.

SPORTING COMMENT.

How would you like to be in New York tomorrow?

Cincinnati fans are still rooting for the Reds to beat out Pittsburgh for third place. A benefit game will be given on Monday, and the gate receipts, minus incidental expenses, will be divided among the Red Stockings. The Reds will have as their opponents the pick of the Avondale and College Hill teams. Each man should realize a tidy sum from the game.

Frank Farrell, of the New York Americans, while in Washington about a month ago, said he thought Ferris, of Boston, the best man that ever played the second bag. He is now playing the magnate's good opinion of him. He is the best ground cover in the league, having accepted seventy-three more chances than Lajoie, who is next to him.

Virgil Garvin, the erratic twirler of the Highlanders, formerly with Brooklyn, has not made a run this year.

It is a safe bet that a majority of the fans who attend the local ball games now go to get the returns of the Boston-New York series.

Wrestlers are stirring up quite a fuss in Washington nowadays. Everybody wants to be champion of the South.

Dr. A. E. Bull, center rush on the championship '94 and '95 football teams of Pennsylvania, is now assisting in the coaching at Franklin Field.

President Potter, of the Philadelphia Nationals, denies that he contemplates selling his stock. He says: "I am still the president of the Philadelphia Baseball Club, Limited, despite all reports to the contrary. The club has not lost \$30,000 on the present season, and all hands are now determined more than ever to go in and give this city a good nine in the National League next year."

The club is not for sale, and there is more money behind the Phillies than any club in existence.

Pennsylvania's football team is handicapped by easy catches. Proper equipment under the poor schedule is almost an impossibility.

A fight for the legitimate feather-weight championship has been clinched between Alvin "Al" and "Doc" Tompkins. Sullivan. The bout will take place at the West End Club, St. Louis, on October 13.

While battling it out in the stretch at Chillicothe, Mo., on Wednesday, Joeeky Ralph and Berry deliberately struck each other in the face with their whips time and again. Ralph has been barred from riding for thirty days.

Ambrose Putnam, the New York twirler, has left the ranks of the young and foolish, and has become a benefactor.

Crescens is to make a tour of the world, says Dame Rumor. The trotting king is to be raced in Honolulu, the Hawaiian Islands, and at the best meetings in Australia. This is all very interesting, but is denied by his owner.

It is expected that more than 800 students will accompany the Iowa University football team to Chicago when that team plays the Maroons next Saturday.



GOOD TIMES AHEAD FOR THE RACER.

ST. JOHN'S OVERCOMES HEAVIER F. AND M.

Scored Two Touchdowns in First Half For Score of 11 to 0—Duvall Made 70-Yard Run.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Oct. 8.—St. John's defeated the heavier eleven of Franklin and Marshall this morning in a first game of football by 11 to 0.

All the scoring was done in the first half. The first score was made by Smith in a rush through tackle. The second score was made by Duvall on a sensational run of seventy yards. The game was noted for the heavy line plunging by Smith and Stevens for St. John's, and Burton for Franklin and Marshall.

The game started by a kick from St. John's to F. and M., who carried the ball a few yards by line plunging, and then lost on downs. Stevens and Staley carried the ball down the field to within ten yards of F. and M.'s goal, where Smith by a rush went through tackle for the first score. On the next kick-off Herr ran the ball back for twenty yards. Then a series of plunges and kicks took place. Duvall received the last kick and made his remarkable run. Green kicked goal. This ended the scoring.

In the second half both sides did good work, but could not get within striking distance of each other's goal. The game ended with the ball in possession of Franklin and Marshall.

St. John's. Positions. F. and M. House... L. E. Gevick, Staley... L. F. Monn, Clark... L. G. Kreider, Green... C. Brown, C. Duval, C. Freeman, Gwynn.

McCardell... R. T. Helman (Capt) Hopkins... R. E. Dasher, E. P. Duvall (C), Q. B. Herr Smith... L. H. B. Burton, Stevens... R. H. B. Lewis, Jackson.

Ruhl... F. B. Hanley Touchdowns—Smith, E. P. Duvall, Goal from touchdown—Green. Time of halves—15 minutes. Umpire—Mr. Melvin. Referee—Mr. Halbert. Time-keeper—Mr. Galt. Linesmen—Mr. Rasin and Mr. Shuford.

VIRGINIA BOYS LOSE TO PRINCETON TIGERS

PRINCETON, N. J., Oct. 8.—The Tigers defeated Washington and Jefferson this afternoon by the score of 15 to 0 in the most closely contested game that has been played here so far this season.

The visitors succeeded in holding Princeton three times for downs and made five first downs in the first half. Ritter, the freshman quarterback, easily outclassed Burkett today, who showed up in poor form. Simons and Connors did excellent work for Princeton.

Just before time was called in the last half Connors made a forty-yard run around left end. Foulke covered sixty yards in two runs. In the second half he advanced the ball within two feet of a touchdown. The Tigers showed much improvement in blocking and formation of back line. Short proved the most consistent ground gainer for Princeton. Washington and Jefferson put up a strong fight in the beginning of the game, at one time holding Princeton on the three-yard line, but weakened considerably in the second half.

Touchdowns—Short, Simons, and Connors. Goals from touchdowns—Foulke. Umpire—Hergen. Referee—Underhill. Linesmen—Vetterlein, Princeton, and Cleveland. Washington and Jefferson. Time of halves—25 and 25 minutes.

Comparison of Scores Worthless in Football

Minor Games Are for Practice Only and Result Depends Upon What Coaches Are Trying to Teach.

Phil King, the old Princeton quarterback, who had the reputation of being one of the greatest quarts that ever donned a canvas suit, is now in business in Washington, but is making trips to Princeton twice a week as a member of the football advisory committee of the Tigers.

Mr. King still retains his interest in the game, but has refused several flattering offers to coach Western teams. In speaking of the football situation yesterday he said:

"It is entirely too early to make any comparison between the teams unless you have seen them in practice, and few of those who have been venturing opinions have seen all the teams they are criticizing."

Dope Is Worthless. "Much time and space is being devoted to 'doping' the performances of the big eleven against smaller colleges, but that sort of deduction is worth little or nothing and should not receive serious attention. When the coaches start to develop a team they do it slowly but systematically. On the largest eleven little attention is given to perfecting the team as a whole for several weeks after the season opens. The first idea is to find out who is the best man for each position, and the plays are considered only incidentally."

"After the men are selected coaches get to work to drill the team in the plays. In going against the smaller teams the coaches may direct the team to perfect a certain play in a certain game, and throughout the entire contest the eleven will be working on that problem, experimenting with it in all its phases, without regard to the size of the score being rolled up."

Other Side Gets Next. "The other side soon finds out what the big team is doing, and, being forewarned, sets out to break up its plans. This knowledge on the part of its opponents makes it harder for the big eleven to put its scheme through, but at the same time the intelligent and fierce opposition makes the practice all the more effective."

"By following this system the coaches gradually and effectively develop a team, but its preliminary games give no real idea of its collective strength. In a game against one team Yale may use a play in which the eleven has made considerable advance and may roll up a big score. A week later Princeton may meet the same team, devote the time to a series of plays in which the eleven has been somewhat backward and fail to score more than two or three times. Manifestly, a comparison of the two performances is worth practically nothing in figuring out the relative merits of the two teams."

More Good Teams Now.

"The big teams are not making the large scores that they made years ago, because the smaller institutions are becoming better every year. Crack professional coaches are becoming more numerous."

and more common, and they are constantly bringing the minor teams to a greater state of perfection, not only in the colleges, but in the leading preparatory schools, and the big eleven have to hustle to win.

"Star players are a thing of the past with the best football experts. Some men will naturally shine, but the star who wants to be the whole thing is not wanted. A football team is composed of eleven men, and they must move together."

Stars a Handicap. "The star who attempts to make spectacular plays and does not sink his individuality in the mechanism of his interference is a detriment rather than an aid and should be promptly suppressed."

"I do not think that the changes in the rules this year have made any particularly noticeable change in the playing, and the game is about as it was last year, with the exception that the quarterback can run in any part of the field now instead of only between the 25-yard lines. It is hard to see how the game can be changed much more. If it is it will cease to be football and become something else."

PRESIDENT HERRMANN MAY BUY THE PHILLIES

First of Baseball Magnates to Come to Aid of Organization Threatened With Disaster.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Oct. 9.—It is most probable that President Herrmann, of the Reds, will be the first of the "National League" baseball magnates to take steps to save the Philadelphia club, the existence of which is threatened as a result of financial difficulties.

With an investment in the ill-fated club which is generally estimated at between \$40,000 and \$50,000, President Herrmann will be one of the heaviest losers if the concern should go to pieces, and, with him, Mayor Fleischmann would lose a big sum.

"There is absolutely nothing for the stockholders to worry about," said Herrmann today. "The franchise is worth all we put into it, and we do not want to abandon it."

In an effort to reconstruct the club and put it on a paying basis to protect his interests, President Herrmann may be compelled to assume virtual ownership of it, and it is believed that he would not hesitate to do that.

Washington Team Lost To Western Maryland

Mountaineers Made Touchdown in Second Half—Roberts Star Feature—Left Side of Losers' Line Lamentably Weak.

George Washington University met the surprise of its life yesterday when it was defeated by Western Maryland College by 6 to 0 in a fierce and uncertain game.

Victory was deserved by the mountain boys, but they have to thank their adipose fullback, Roberts, for their triumph. Roberts was pretty much the whole thing for the winners, although the other members of the team played hard and consistent football.

George Washington displayed a lamentable weakness on the left side of the line throughout the game, and although the entire side was changed before the final whistle blew, it did not take much of a brace, except at the end, where Steenerson succeeded Van Vleet. The men on the left had neither the strength nor the knowledge to hold back the opposing linemen, and Stayton and Smith opened holes with monotonous regularity, through which the tireless Roberts plunged in a slow and awkward but effective manner for goody gains.

Roberts Hammered Left.

Occasionally Roberts took a whack at the right side of the local line, and not always without result, but he evidently figured that it was not much use to take a chance when he had an easy thing on the left. He also unchained a few holes through center.

Fumbling and weakness in the line were entirely responsible for the job received by the Washington institution. The backs ran well and worked hard, and had they been properly supported by the tackles and guards the result would have been different.

The teamwork which was so noticeable and encouraging when Randolph-Macon was defeated on Monday was to a large extent dissipated by the aggressiveness of the Maryland boys, who dived headlong into the plays and broke up many of them before they got well started. Roberts and Lawyer upset many of the George Washington plans by their daring work.

Woke Up Too Late.

Not until the last five minutes of the second half did the local men acquire the proper dash, and then Steenerson and Winston, taking advantage of the darkness which made it almost impossible for their opponents to see the ball, made long runs around Maryland's right end, and when time was called the ball was on Western Maryland's 20-yard line with every prospect of it going over.

Fumbling was in evidence on both sides. By snuffing a pass when Washington had the ball on its own 10-yard line Winston lost it for his side and steady bucking by the irrepressible Roberts carried it over, after which he heaped on the insults by kicking goal.

The Washington ends got down well on the kicks and the same may be said for their opponents, while Kirkman played his usual hurry-up game on the defensive and beat the ends to the runner on kicks, which abounded in the first half. Higgins played fullback position on the defense, for Maryland, and his quickness and sureness in tackling cut off at least three touchdowns.

Made Many Changes.

Bielaski and F. West gave way in the first half to Winston and Mackler. When the second half opened Staley and Berryman, at left guard and left tackle, gave way to Morris and Carroll, but the newcomers were unable to stop the advance of the Maryland backs. Van Vleet did not break up the plays fast enough and gave way at left end to Steenerson, who was a decided improvement.

The first half was a saw-saw affair in which the team went from the territory to the territory. Each side was able to hold the other for downs at times, and each found rugged spots in the other's line. The feature was a 20-yard run by Steenerson, in which he was tackled by Higgins. Maryland got the ball on downs on its 15-yard line after Steenerson's run, and the Elks found a worthy foe in the Maryland backer. Van Vleet fumbled the ball and Smith recovered it for the visitors.

Fatal Weakness.

At this time the weakness of the left side of the Washington line became apparent. Roberts hammered it for 15 and 5-yard gains, and when time was called the ball was on Washington's 30-yard mark.

In the second half Washington kicked to Maryland's 35-yard line. Off side play gave the visitors five yards. A fake pass to the redoubtable and aggressive right tackle, Smith, netted 25 yards, Kirkman stopping him enough to allow Winston to make a beautiful tackle. Weeks and Lawyer skirted the ends for some 15 yards, and Coach Rorke put in Steenerson for Van Vleet.

Roberts charged for 15 yards, carrying the ball to Washington's 3-yard line. There Washington took a mighty brace and withstood the mighty Roberts for three downs as he tried to buck straight through the line. The first down netted nothing for Washington, and then Steenerson and Winston each made 5 yards in the line.

Winston's Costly Fumble.

Kirkman passed the ball to Winston, who missed it, and when the smoke cleared away it was in Western Maryland's hands. Roberts, in two rushes, carried it to the 2-yard line, and on the next try hurried himself through the left side for the touchdown. He kicked goal and the score stood 6 to 0.

Maryland kicked to Winston, who brought the ball back to Washington's 40-yard line. Five yards were granted for off-side play. Steenerson made ten yards in the line and then skirted Maryland's right end for thirty-five yards, until pulled down by Higgins. Winston turned the same trick on left end for twenty-five yards, but Smith smashed the combination on the next play by breaking through the line and throwing Winston for a ten-yard loss. Steenerson made up the ten yards by a run around left end, but time was called with the ball well in Maryland's territory.

The Line-Up.

GEO. WASH. Positions. WEST. MD. Van Vleet... L. E. Rorer, Steenerson... L. E. Rorer, Berryman, Carroll... L. T. Henry, Woods... L. G. Cooling, Kilgore... R. G. Staley, W. West... R. E. Smith, Kirkman... Q. B. Higgins, Bielaski, Winston... L. B. Lawler, Steenerson... R. H. B. Lawler, F. West, Mackler... F. B. Roberts Touchdown—Roberts. Goal from touchdown—Roberts. Referee—F. K. Nielsen, Nebraska. Umpire—J. A. Bates, Bates College. Timers—Mr. Abbaticchio, Georgetown, and Mr. Neighbors, Western Maryland. Linesmen—R. F. LeMott and Mr. Treadway, of Western Maryland.

NAVY PROGRESSES SATISFACTORILY

Abandons Policy of Frequent Changes.

BACK FIELD ALREADY FIXED

Wilcox, Douglass, Doherty and Howard Sure of Places—Line Looks Too Light.

ANNAPOLIS, Oct. 8.—The progress of the Annapolis football squad under Head Coach Paul J. Dashiell and his assistants this week has been in every way satisfactory.

Great care is being taken to avoid an error made in several seasons of too much changing of the teams. Last year and the year before this mistake utterly destroyed any proficiency in the team work of the line. At the same time it is not desired to create the impression that the positions are filled beyond the chance of change, thus making the team men sluggish and the other candidates hopeless of winning a place.

Each Has a Chance.

The coaches are meeting these difficulties by devoting special attention to two or more men for each position, but at the same time causing it to be thoroughly known that at any time a player may be displaced by a better man.

In the back field, even at this early date, the coaches have fixed upon a quartet, which it is believed will last the season, barring accident. At quarter, Wilcox, last year's occupant of the same position, is altogether satisfactory. He displaced Needham at about the middle of last season and gained experience from filling the place in most of the big games. He is quick, cool, and game, and constantly improves. The other men are fast and heavy.

Douglass, the new 185 pounder from the University of Tennessee, shows remarkable speed for so large a man and promises to be the best Navy back for years. He is playing at right half. Doherty, with several years' experience, weighs 170 pounds and is a sprinter, and occupies the left half. Howard, who has played end for the last three seasons, has gained considerably in weight and is playing at full back. He weighs 140 pounds and is a fair man.

The arrangement of the line is not well settled, but the greatest attention is being paid to developing strong tackles. Captain Farley is aggressive enough, and has gained something in weight, but he has hardly the pounds for the place, though he is now playing there. For the other tackle there are Pierce, of last year's team, and Chambers, guard last season, weighing 155 and 150 pounds, respectively. Grady, who also reaches the higher figure, should certainly get a place, either at guard or in Farley's tackle, should the latter be moved to end.

Line Uncertain.

The center positions are now only held tentatively. McClintic, who has been substitute center for two seasons, is occupying the position regularly. He only weighs 125 pounds, but is strong and heady. Goss, last year's center, and a crew man, is at present at right guard, and should be displaced would probably return to center. The other guard is being held by R. W. Smith, who is too light and of too short stature for a guard. The main criticism of the line is that not enough effort is being made to put weight in the center.

A gratifying feature of the week has been the arrival of some old players to help out Dashiell, Backwater and Oult. These are Lieutenants Tardy and McCarthy, who played center and quarter, respectively, some years ago, and were strong men. They are both particularly nifty men, and are well calculated to inspire the later Navy men with some of the old-time Navy spirit.

LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL AFTER FOOTBALL GAMES

The Laurel High School has organized its football team, and would like to arrange games with Washington teams whose weight does not exceed 115 pounds. Line-up: N. Shuter, quarterback; Phair, fullback; C. Johnson, left halfback; W. Brown, right halfback; C. Johnson, left end; W. Timanus, right end; and linemen and substitutes, J. Flester, D. Brown, W. Jones, H. Lashan, D. Federline, C. Sullivan. Address: Wallace S. Brown, postoffice box 11, Laurel, Md.

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